

### **Remarks**

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 26-31 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 15 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 19, 20 and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 18. No new matter has been added to the application by these amendments.

The patentability of the present invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Morimoto et al. (US '873) in view of Lichtenhan et al. (U.S. Publication '193) has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

The Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 15-25.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the ground of rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

If, after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobumasa OOTAKE et al.

For: Michael R. Davis AES  
Michael R. Davis  
Registration No. 25,134  
Attorney for Applicants

By: Amy E. Schmid  
Amy E. Schmid  
Registration No. 55,965  
Attorney for Applicants

MRD/AES/ pth  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
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